

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 10 and 11 are allowed.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard H. Tushin on 19 March 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Begin amendment to the specification

Page 1, between the title and line 3, replace the following paragraph:

The present application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial Number 10/288,590, filed November 6, 2002, the priority of which is hereby claimed and is now U.S. Patent Number 7,053,124.

End amendment to the specification

Reasons for allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants' response filed 17 December 2007 has obviated the remaining issues as set forth in the Office Action mailed 21 September 2007. The instant amendment updates the status of the parent application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel S. Metzmaier whose telephone number is (571) 272-1089. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David W. Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1796

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel S. Metzmaier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

DSM